(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Under the Traveling Allowance (TA) rules, reimbursement of taxi/scooter charges for journey for attending office on holidays or for proceeding on official tour is normally admissible only from the headquarter of the employees or their residence in cities with the Urban Agglomeration (UA), from the place of residence in the U.A to Railway Station/Bus station/Airport and *vice-versa*. The question of allowing such reimbursement to officials residing in peripheral towns, which are not within the UA limits of the city of their headquarters, does not arise. The Staff Car Rules provide that Staff Cars should not be used for official journey outside the headquarters for which TA is admissible. There is no proposal for amending the TA Rules or Staff Car Rules.

Customs gate in Indo-Myanmar Border

2844. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from Moreh (Manipur) there is another customs gate namely Zowkhatari Hai in the Indo-Myanmar border;

(b) whether it is also a fact that said gate is not operational for border trade;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to make the said gate operational and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, apart from Moreh Land Customs Stations in Manipur, there is another Land Customs Station (not customs gate) named Zokhawthar Land Customs Station in Mizoram on the Indo-Myanmar border.

(b) to (d) The Land Customs Station at Zokhawthar was inauguarated on 30th January 2004. However, till date there has been no export/import through this trading point as the Indo-Myanmar Trade Agreement limits barter trade between the two nations to agricultural and minor forest produces only, and Zokhawthar is not a declared entry point for import of Plants and Plant products as per *Schedule I, II and III of the Plant*

Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India effective from 1st January 2004. It is therefore for the Ministry of Agriculture to take necessary remedial action in the matter.

Sale of 20 per cent shares of BHEL

†2845. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell 20 per cent shares of BHEL to the private sector; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether BHEL has earned profit during the last three years; if so, the total profit earned by BHEL during the said period;

(c) whether the economic capacity of BHEL would improve by selling its share capital to the private sector; and

(d) if so, the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no proposal to sell 20 per cent shares of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to the private sector. In May 2005, the Government decided on an 'offer for sale' of 10 per cent equity of BHEL out of Government's holding of 67.72 per cent through the 'book building process'. It was also decided that upto 15 per cent of the equity offered for sale will be reserved for the employees of BHEL. However, letters have been received from workers unions and others opposing disinvestment in BHEL. The objections are under consideration. No further decision has been taken in this matter.

(b) Yes, Sir. The net profit of BHEL during the last three financial years was as follows:—

Year	Net Profit (Rs. crore)
2002-03	444.51
2003-04	658.15
2004-05	953.40

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.